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COLLEGE GETS A BIG PLEDGE

General Education Board Offers \$75,000 Towards Endowment Being Sought.

\$115,000 MORE IS NEEDED

\$185,000 of First \$300,000 Is Now Either Raised Or Pledged For The Fund.

The Yuletide season brought a pleasing announcement for the friends of Alma College from President H. M. Crooks, who stated that the General Education Board had made a pledge of \$75,000 to the first half of the \$300,000 additional endowment that is being sought by the Presbyterian Institution.

The gift from the General Education Board is conditional on the balance of the \$300,000 fund being secured.

With the previously announced pledge of \$50,000 from the General Board of Education of the Presbyterian church, this makes a total of \$125,000 that has now been pledged toward the first \$300,000 of the \$600,000 additional endowment that is being sought by the Presbyterian Institution.

Approximately \$60,000 of the \$300,000 fund has already been raised, thus making a total of about \$185,000 of the \$300,000 fund that has been raised and pledged. This leaves \$115,000 still to be raised by the college.

The larger pledge by the General Education Board for \$75,000 is conditional on the balance of the first half of the endowment fund being raised. No time limit is given for this \$75,000, but it is understood that the balance of the \$300,000 is to be raised within a reasonable length of time.

In making pledges to educational institutions the General Educational Board makes a study of the institution to be favored, its standards, achievements and the probability of its becoming a permanent college. As a result the pledge of the General Education Board, means more than simply the financial aid that is being extended.

The General Education Board has also agreed to pay \$5,000 per year for a period of three years for professors salaries. The first payment for this fund has already been made.

At present Alma college is the third sectarian college in the state in the matter of endowment, but the present endowment campaign will boost the standing of the college considerably if it goes over successfully, and make it perhaps the strongest of the educational institutions of the state, although the youngest.

Among the men who have been aiding in the work on the endowment campaign are Allen Hill Brown, who has been with the college in this work since September, Joseph H. Green of Mt. Pleasant, Dr. William H. Mason of Saginaw, W. L. Gelston of Alma, Lewis S. Brooke of Milford, J. E. Wilber of Royal Oak, Dr. J. Wirt Dunning of Kalamazoo, Rev. Bradford of Detroit and William Roberts of Ithaca.

DIED WEDNESDAY

Calvin Cowles, Civil War Veteran Died At Advanced Age.

Calvin Cowles, a resident of this city for seventeen years, died at the home of George Cowles, Mechanic street, Wednesday night, December 22, at the age of 84 years and five months.

Cowles was a veteran of the Civil war, having been a member of the 12 Michigan, Company F. He was a member of the William Moyer Post of this city.

The funeral was held from the home of George Cowles on Friday December 24, Rev. Matt Duffey, officiating. The body was placed in the vault at Riverside cemetery.

MARRIED AT CHARLEVOIX

Word has been received here of the marriage at Charlevoix, Michigan, on Saturday, December 18, of Roy D. France to Miss Elva Jefferies. Mrs. France is a prominent young lady of that city. Mr. France, employed at the Charlevoix Courier office, was formerly an employee of The Alma Record, and has many friends in this city, who will be pleased to hear of his wedding.

LEGAL HOLIDAY

The post office will be closed Saturday, January 1st, 1921, all day there will be no city or rural deliveries.

Vincent P. Cash, Postmaster.

Married Wednesday evening at the home of the bride's aunt, Mrs. Owen Stearns, Miss Frances Hixon of this city, to Louis Schultz of Shepherd. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Duffey.

FINE DANCE

Elks' Dance Held Tuesday Was Fine Success.

The Elks' Yuletide dance held in the Elks' temple on East Superior street Tuesday evening was a big success, the first function to be held in the new hall drawing out nearly 150 young people of the city.

The hall was prettily decorated for the social event, the lighting effects being the most striking feature of the decorations. Another feature, that is always used at similar functions of Elks lodges, was the "Eleven O'Clock Toast." Music was furnished for the dance by the Elks' orchestra.

The lodge room of the Elks temple was used for the dance furnishing ample room for the dancers, the room taking over half of the second floor of the Berman block. The visitors at the Elks' temple Tuesday evening were very agreeably surprised at the excellence of the appointments of the lodge room, and of the club rooms, which are located to the front of the building on the second floor, and numerous very favorable comments were made in regard to the place.

COMMUNITY TREE DREW BIG CROWD

Efforts of Legionnaires And The Women's Auxiliary Highly Appreciated.

The George W. Myers Post No. 132, community Christmas tree held Friday evening, was a big event that pleased everyone who attended, but naturally it had a far greater fascination for the kiddies of the city than for the older folks, as it had been previously announced that there would be gifts for the children of Alma who attended.

About 5:00 p. m., some hundreds of children of the city gathered at the big community tree, where Christmas carols and songs were sung for the occasion were sung.

When the last echoes of the final song had died away on the cold evening's wind, the youngsters were asked to form a line on South State street, and to march to the tree, where Santa Claus would dispense the presents and tokens to them. Candy and goodies for some hundreds of youngsters had been prepared, but long before the end of the line had been reached, the candy was gone. This did not stop the former service men, however, as they were rather used to bumping against difficulties. The DeLuxe candy store was near at hand, and more candy was quickly procured from there, a part of which the proprietors of the store very generously donated for the occasion. Santa then continued to dispense the good will until every child who was present, had received his or her share of the candy, and made to feel that perhaps it is not such a bad world after all.

The community tree was a large, symmetrical one, which when decorated after hours of work on the part of the ex-soldiers, presented a most charming picture, which attracted wide attention.

Considerable credit should go to the Legionnaires and the Women's Auxiliary for their work, which made possible the fine event.

A FINE PROGRAM

The Sunday School of the First Baptist Church gave a very interesting program on Christmas eve. A good crowd was in attendance and all the parts were well rendered. The program consisted of Christmas carols, songs, recitations and dialogues in which the children of the lower grades took leading parts under the general title of "The Song in the Sky." Lawrence Shouffer, David Glass, Ruth Jackson, Walter Crandell, Paul Woodland, Raymond Rapson, Vivian Dayton, Mary Brennan, Leslie Struble, Paul Ditto, Marian Grover, Stanley Sergeant and Ben Johnson all took leading parts.

The self-sacrifice offering for the starving children of Europe was a good one. Much credit for the success of the program is due to the efforts of the program and decoration committees consisting of Misses Elsie Struble, Hazel Shankel, Mildred Chapman, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Medler and Ben Johnson.

DIED MONDAY

Sarah Frances Ostrander died on Monday at the home of her mother and stepfather, Mr. and Mrs. Wyatt Brown, on Court street. She had been in ill health for some time, but until Saturday her illness was not serious. At that time she became very ill, and passed away Monday, aged about fifteen years.

She was a member of the World Wide Guild of the Baptist church and a member of the Sunday school of that church. Girls of her Sunday school class acted as pallbearers at the funeral services which were held Wednesday afternoon, conducted by Rev. Shouffer. Miss Elsie Struble and Miss Louise Hainline furnished special music.

Word was received this morning that Dr. Manning of Lansing, district superintendent, will preach at the M. E. church Sunday morning at 11:00 a. m.

PREY ON GOLD STAR MOTHERS

Crooks Attempt To Secure Funds By Sending Fake Reports By Telegraph.

LOCAL WOMAN NEAR VICTIM

Claim Soldier Dead Are Alive And Need Money To Return To Their Homes.

Sorrow has been renewed in the home of a "Gold Star" mother of this city, into which the tentacles of a man without a conscience have reached—and again Mrs. Edward McLain is suffering from the heartaches of the noble mother who has given her son for the honor of her country, learns that he has been killed in action on foreign soil. Suffering from the dashing to earth of a re-kindled hope that she might see her youngest son, the baby of the family, Leslie, again alive, is the anguish that she is now enduring, following the discovery that a message, "Arrived today. Coming home. Wire \$100," and signed Leslie McLain, was sent to her from Brooklyn by a man without a conscience with the sole thought of securing the \$100 regardless of the heartaches that might be caused.

Sunday while Mrs. McLain was in Midland she received this telegram from Brooklyn.

Could it be that the son that the war department had officially reported as killed in action two and a half years was still alive? It did not seem possible, yet such things had happened. Could it be that someone was endeavoring to secure money through such a hoax? It was possible. So Mrs. McLain made up her mind. She replied that she must return to Alma before she could send the money. Immediately she sent her son, Herbert, who was with her at Midland to Brooklyn to trace the sender of the message.

A telegram received late Tuesday afternoon, "The man is a faker," revealed the hoax, and that tiny spark of hope in the mother's breast, that ray that will not down while there is a possible chance, went glimmering again.

That hope had previously been raised by the war department, after young sixteen year old McLain had been reported killed in action. He was reported as in a hospital later, raising the mother's hopes. They were dashed a few months later, when official word came again that Leslie, the baby of the McLain family, had died with his face to the foe.

INSTALLATION HELD MONDAY

Event Closed The Most Successful Year In History of Masonic Lodge.

Monday evening a public installation of Alma lodge No. 244, F. & A. M., was held in the Masonic Temple, attended by nearly three hundred Masons, their wives and friends. The installation meeting marked the close of the most successful year in the history of the local lodge, during which time the resume of the year's work given by Merrill Stuckey, worshipful master, indicated that 126 had entered the lodge.

With J. M. Montigel, the oldest past master of the lodge, acting as installing officer, the following officers were installed for the coming year: Orville Allen, worshipful master; Carl J. Milliken, senior warden; Ross Hall, junior warden; Louis Hutchison, senior deacon; Leon R. May, junior deacon; William Moody, senior steward; W. M. Davis, junior steward; Rev. Matt Duffey, chaplain; Earl Parker, marshal; J. E. Fuller, secretary; and J. M. Montigel, treasurer.

Following the installation, J. E. Fuller, in behalf of the lodge, presented to Rev. Jackson, retiring chaplain, who is leaving with his family this week for Wooster, Ohio, after a ten year pastorate in Alma, with an umbrella. Frank O. Parker, presented Merrill Stuckey with the past master's apron.

The short addresses were given by several of the new officers, and were followed by refreshments in the Masonic dining room. The evening was then given over to a dance.

TO HOLD BANQUET

Fitz James Lodge, Knights of Pythias, which frequently brings out some new stunt for the amusement and pleasure of the members of the local lodge, is planning on a "Hobo" banquet for Thursday evening, January 6. The members of the lodge are requested to wear their "hobo" dress that evening, and to be present and enjoy the good time and the banquet.

Maroon and Cream play, Strand soon—adv.-tf.

HUSTLERS CLASS

Class of Presbyterian Church Is Doing Things.

The Hustlers Class of the First Presbyterian church is doing things. Under the leadership of Jack Eckles the class has progressed by leaps and bounds. Beginning with an attendance of eight, the class now has an attendance of twenty with an enrollment of twenty-six.

Each month a regular class meeting is held with a steaming pot luck supper or a "weenie" roast. After games the regular election of officers occurs with a new set of committees. The boys are very enthusiastic over the possibilities of the class.

A peculiar plan has been worked out in the athletics. The youngsters have been classified according to age, each year having a team. There are five teams now, the 10-11, 11-12, and 13 year teams, and a first team. By this plan every boy will get a maximum amount of training instead of only a few being developed into stars.

The first team has played eight games and has won four. It has never been beaten by a team of the same age, grade or size. The St. Louis Scouts won over the Hustlers Christmas day by a score of 20-6. The visitors were larger than the locals and played a game of football instead of basketball.

RESIGNATION WAS LAID ON TABLE

Kress, Who Becomes Judge On January 1, Is Still Alma City Attorney.

James G. Kress is not finding it quite as easy to resign as city attorney of Alma, as he had evidently expected that he would, when he submitted his resignation to the city commission in order that he might be entirely free when he assumed his new work as judge of probate of Gratiot county on January 1, 1921.

The commission has so far failed to act on the resignation, and as a result, Mr. Kress after January 1 will be known as James G. Kress, judge of probate of Gratiot county, and attorney for the City of Alma.

At a meeting of the city commission Tuesday evening the resignation of Mr. Kress was read and spread upon the minutes of the commission and then tabled, without being acted upon.

Just what steps the city commission may take in the matter are not yet certain. It may be that the resignation will be accepted next week, and there is also a slight possibility that it may lay on the table where it is now resting when the commission adjourns Tuesday evening.

As the appeal of the first of the city's two cases against A. R. Purcell, Jackson contractor, is listed in the January calendar of the Michigan Supreme Court as case 127, it is regarded as very possible that Kress will be retained as city attorney until after the supreme court makes its decision in the case. This case is the replevin case that grew out of the alleged failure of Purcell to complete his contract with the city, under which he was to supply the city with a pure well water supply of 2,000 gallons per minute. Under the contract the title of the well digging machinery was vested in the city, pending the satisfactory completion of the work. As tests indicated that only about one-third of the required amount of water was forthcoming when Purcell claimed his contract was completed, the city replevined the well digging machinery. The city gained a directed verdict in the case in circuit court, before Judge E. J. Moinet. This was followed by an appeal by the attorneys representing Purcell.

Kress handled this case in the circuit court for the City of Alma, and was assisted by Kelly S. Seel of St. Johns, and it is not unlikely that the city officials will feel that Kress can best serve the interests of the community by continuing as the city attorney, as he is perfectly familiar with the case.

MARRIED CHRISTMAS

Miss Irene Lockard, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Lockard, residing on Maple avenue, was united in marriage at the home of her parents at noon on Christmas day to Arlington C. Morrow of St. Louis. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Matt W. Duffey of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Mrs. Morrow has been secretary to J. W. Kelder, superintendent of schools, for the past year and a half. She has a wide acquaintance in Alma and is held in high esteem. The groom is a prominent resident of St. Louis.

FREE LECTURE

"The Par-Basic Tax" is the subject of a lecture that will be given at the city hall Wednesday evening, January 5, at 7:30 o'clock by E. Frank MacCallum-Mohr. He will endeavor to fully explain his taxation idea. Mr. MacCallum-Mohr says that opposition is invited and that for any argument against this system which a majority of the audience declares to be a good argument, \$2.00 will be paid.

THIEVES VISITED BUSINESS PLACES

Two Visits Made Here During The Past Week, But Little Was Secured.

SMALL CHANGE WAS TAKEN

Alma Elevator, Home Lumber & Fuel, Freight Depot and Coal Office Entered.

Thieves, believed to be three in number, visited three business places in this city Sunday evening, making the second visit that Alma has had during the short space of a single week, and the only crime attempts of this kind here since the crime wave started to sweep over the country. The first visit here of thieves was last Thursday when the office of the Alma Elevator was entered.

The thieves Sunday evening broke into the Ann Arbor freight depot, and the offices of the Brown-Ward Coal Company and the Home Lumber & Fuel company. Entrance was gained in each place through a window, windows being "jimmied" at the Home Lumber and Fuel company and Brown-Ward Coal company offices. A window pane was broken out at the freight office.

The thieves got very little Sunday night for their pains. Officers report that nothing was taken from the offices of the Brown-Ward Coal company, or from the Ann Arbor freight office. At the office of the Home Lumber & Fuel company a little change that was in the till was taken. Manager Harry Gerber does not believe that it amounted to over \$3.00 at the outside. Part of this consisted of Canadian coins.

Tracks in the snow near the offices of the Home Lumber & Fuel company indicate that three men were implicated in the jobs, which are believed to have all been done by the same men. At the Home Lumber & Fuel company, two of the men remained outside of the offices, near the railroad track on Woodworth avenue, while the other entered the offices. It is thought that the jobs were done during the early part of the night, as the footprints were partly filled with snow, which started to fall shortly before midnight Sunday.

The office of the Alma Elevator on Woodworth avenue was entered on Thursday evening of last week. Some loose change, amounting to two or three dollars was all that was secured. The thieves, attempted to open the safe, but failed. The safe, however, was badly damaged in the attempt.

ALMA MERCHANTS ARE WIDE AWAKE

Robinson and Other Sales Show Desire of Business Men For Low Prices.

Business in Alma is hitting the skids rapidly towards the pre-war days in Alma, judging from the big four page advertisement of the D. W. Robinson stores of this city, which will start the largest sale in the history of Alma on Wednesday of next week and from other big sales that have been held by Alma stores.

The Robinson stores will close Friday evening and remained closed until time for the sale to begin on Wednesday, during which time, the prices will be slashed down.

Mr. Hart, an expert from Chicago, who has just finished a wonderful sale in St. Joe, Mo., is in Alma in charge of the big sale, and such is the opinion that Mr. Robinson has of his ability, that he has practically turned the store over to him, allowing him to use his own judgment in price making. Being in daily touch with the markets Mr. Hart is well able to handle this vital end of the work. He stated yesterday that Alma people would be surprised when the sale started as some goods in the store would be marked at less than the pre-war prices.

The stores are now being completely re-arranged with a view of securing all the sales space possible. This calls for an entire re-organization of the big stores. Special wrapping counters and cash stations will be used. From 75 to 80 clerks will be on the job, Mr. Hart states. Mr. Robinson is loaded with goods, Mr. Hart says, and is determined to clean them out and get back to the normal business basis just as quickly as possible. Mr. Hart estimated that there would be \$165,000 worth of goods in the sale, which is to include goods which are arriving almost daily for these stores.

During the sales Mr. Hart lectures on merchandising, tells how the various goods are made, etc. He stated that not only would both stores be filled with goods for the sale, but that the large basements (Continued on page eight)

NEW SALES MANAGER



A. J. WHIPPLE

The members of the Chamber of Commerce are urged to get their primary ballots back to the office of the organization not later than Wednesday, January 5, when the tellers, Earl Parker, Lawrence Montigel and H. M. Glass will begin the work of counting the votes.

PROPOSED ROLLER MILLS DEAL FAILS

Condition of Grain Market Is Given As Cause of Failure of Negotiations.

The recent efforts to purchase the holdings of the Wright Estate in the Alma Grain & Lumber company, consisting of nearly all of the stock in this company, with a view of re-opening the mills of the company, which have been practically idle for the last few years, have fallen flat, and the nearly four score Alma people who subscribed to stock through the Alma Board of Trade have received checks from the organization for the amount which they had subscribed and paid for.

The efforts to take over this stock with a view of re-opening the Alma mills which have a capacity of 200 barrels of flour per day, started some few weeks ago, when John Hicks of St. Johns, James P. Gibbs and James Crawford of Ithaca, and A. C. Crawford of Breckenridge, proposed the proposition to the board of trade, and asked that Alma people subscribe to 2,000 shares of the stock to show their good will, in which case the four men were to take over the balance of the stock from the Wright Estate.

Within a very few hours from the time that the board of trade communicated the matter to the business men of the city the stock was subscribed, and it is expected that the matter would be speedily closed up.

All necessary arrangements for the transfer of the stock of the Wright Estate was made by L. A. Sharp, representing the estate, and a meeting was arranged between Mr. Sharp and the four men. He received a letter from Mr. Crawford at that time, in which it was explained that due to the market conditions, the men deemed it very inadvisable to close up the matter at this time. The board of trade also received a communication to this effect, and the board of trade promptly returned the money that the local business men had already paid to the board of trade for the stock that they had subscribed for.

FARMERS' CLUB TO MEET

The Seville-Summer Farmers' club will meet with Mr. and Mrs. August Lindstrom, living one mile west and one-half mile south of Elwell corners, on January 6, 1921. A large attendance is desired. All old members should be present as this is the annual meeting. Bring a new member, is the new year slogan. The usual pot luck dinner will be served at noon.

The program is as follows: Song by club. Minutes of last meeting. New business and payment of dues. Election of officers. Song by club. Report of State Farmers' Club Association meeting by Mrs. William Schiff. Discussion of report by club. Adjournment.

C. OF C. MEMBERS

In his great hurry and efforts to pile up a large number of Chamber of Commerce memberships during the campaign, John C. Chick, lieutenant colonel of one of the regiments, forgot to fill out his card until after the roster of members had been prepared for the primary election. Hence his name is not shown on the membership list as it should be. This explanation is due Mr. Chick as many may desire to vote for him as one of the directors on their primary ballots.

\$1,000 CLUB

The annual meeting of the members of the Alma Savings & Loan Ass'n will be held at the office of the secretary at 106 E. Superior street, city of Alma, Michigan, Monday evening, January 10, 1920, at 7:30 o'clock. 79-2-c (Signed) D. L. Johnson, Secretary.

WHIPPLE REPUBLIC SALES MANAGER

Colonel Frank E. Smith Makes Announcement of New Official For Alma Plant.

HAS HAD WIDE EXPERIENCE

Ability As Sales Organizer and Merchandiser Will Greatly Strengthen Republic Organization.

Colonel Frank E. Smith, first vice president and General Manager of the Republic Motor Truck Company, Inc., has announced the appointment, effective December 20, of A. J. Whipple as general sales manager of the Republic Truck Sales Corporation, the channel through which Republic motor trucks are marketed.

Arriving in Alma on the 20th, Mr. Whipple immediately assumed the active duties of his office. He intends to make Alma his permanent home and will move his family and effects from Chicago just as soon as suitable arrangements can be made.

Since 1917, Mr. Whipple has been connected with the Diamond T. Motor Truck Company, first as its special representative at Washington, D. C., and later, in the capacity of general sales manager. He is thoroughly informed on conditions existing in the motor truck field, and brings to his new post ripe experience and a well grounded knowledge in the problems of sales and distribution of motor truck equipment.

Mr. Whipple is a well known figure in the Automotive World, having served as director of the National Association of Motor Truck Sales Managers, and is at present a member of the Motor Truck Committee of the National Automobile Chamber of Commerce.

Prior to entering the Automotive Field, Mr. Whipple was eminently successful in other lines, notably in the cement business, as manager of the Atlas-Portland Cement Company, and general sales manager of the Marquette Cement Company, and brings to the Republic Organization a well-rounded out merchandising experience and a wide knowledge of people and conditions, both in the United States and abroad.

Colonel Smith advises that other broad-gauge, nationally-known successful men, will be added to the Republic organization, as fast as they can be secured.

MARRIED TUESDAY

Prominent Alma Couple Quietly Married by Rev. Jackson.

Mrs. Laura Quick and Mr. John C. Chick were quietly united in marriage at 10:00 a. m. Tuesday by Rev. Jackson, at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. S. B. Cook, Rockingham avenue, and immediately after the ceremony left for a short wedding trip.

While not entirely unexpected by their friends, the news of the wedding came as a surprise, as they had not been expecting it for some little time yet. They were somewhat disappointed also in that Mr. and Mrs. Chick left on their wedding journey before their friends became aware of the happy event.

Mrs. Chick has been in business here as owner of the Quick Millinery store for the past year. She has made her home in this city for some years and is held in high regard by a large circle of friends.

Mr. Chick is one of Alma's best known business men, and one of the proprietors of the Economy Shoe store. He is also one of the city commissioners and has been very active in civic affairs.

ELECT OFFICERS

Woman's Auxiliary of American Legion Held Election.

At the annual election of officers of the Woman's Auxiliary of the George W. Myers Post No. 132, American Legion here last week, the following officers were elected: President—Mrs. Jerome Kanter. Vice president—Louise McLaughlin. Secretary—Louise Dumas. Treasurer—Mrs. Orville Allen. Chairman of Executive Committee—Mrs. Creaser.

BLEASTER INJURED

A letter received here a few days ago brought the information that W. C. Bleaster, coach at the University of Idaho, former Alma college mentor, was badly injured in an automobile accident about three months ago, and that he suffered complete paralysis of his right side. He is still confined to his bed. Bleaster was coach at Alma college in 1912, 1913 and 1914, and turned out champion football, baseball and track teams at that time. His 1912 football team was probably the greatest eleven that the M. I. A. A. ever saw. It was a great scoring machine, winning from Mt. Pleasant Normals 108 to 0 in 42 minutes of play, from Olivet 58 to 0, Kalamazoo College 49 to 0, and from other colleges by large scores. He had two baseball championships and one track title to his credit in addition to the football title of 1912.